particularly in Rajasthan which continue to lag behind the other States in march of development; and

(c) what was the per capita plan outlay for Rajasthan during Seventh Five Year Plan as against all States average and whether Government propose to reduce such regional disparities during Eighth Five Year Plan period, if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Balanced regional development of backward areas within a State is very much an objective of the planning process. However, implementation of this objective, so far as regional development is concerned, is tempered by certain inherent, historic and other characterstics of regions such as difference in resources endowment, disparities in availability of infrastructural facilities, physiographic factors and geographical conditions. The prime reasons in case of Rajasthan are feudal traditions, high rate of population growth, low infrastructural facilities, recurring droughts, crrati rainfall, endemic power shortages and lower progress in agriculture. The responsibility for development of a particular region rests primarily with the State Government concerned. In this the Central Government helps the States, including Rajasthan, through the mechanism of transfer of resources under modified formula, previously known as "Gadgil Formula' special area programmes and devolution of non-plan resources by the Finance Commission.

(c) The per capita outlay of Rajasthan during the Seventh Five Year Plan was Rs. 746 while the average for all States was Rs. 1032. The Eighth Plan has not been finalised.

Long term central assistance to Rajasthan for completion of Indira Gandhi Nahar Project

4424. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that the requirement of Rajasthan Government for completion of the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project by 2002 AD would be around Rs. 700 crores.

(b) whether the Central Government are also aware that the State Government alone is not in a position to commit long term sustained requirement of funds for this project; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide substantial amount of central assistance on a long term basis during the Eighth Five Year Plan period, indicating also what *ad-hoc* assistance given to Rajasthan by way of border area development programme during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had approved the revised estimates of Indira Gandhi Nahar Project Stage-II in April, 1987 for Rs. 931.24 crores. The updated estimates for the project arc still awaited from the State Government. The amount required for completion of project would depend upon the updated cost as well as the availability of finanacial resources for the Project. In addition to outlays from State Plans the Central Government have released Central Assistance under drought relif. Border Area Development Programme and Centrally sponsored C. A. D. Programme. In addition the Project also received IDA and IFAD assistance.

(c) In regrad to question of provision of Central Assistance on long-term basis during the Eighth Five Year Plan , the details of Eighth Plan are yet to be finalised. During the current year i. e. 1991-92 the Central Assistance released to Government of Rajasthan under Border Area Development Programme is Rs. 27.80 crores